

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1           1.     A method for managing surplus memory in a multitasking system,  
2     comprising:  
3           reserving a guaranteed amount of memory for a task from a heap in the  
4     multitasking system;  
5           receiving a request from the task to allocate memory for a new object; and  
6           if memory is available in the guaranteed amount of memory for the task,  
7                    allocating memory for the new object from the guaranteed  
8                    amount of memory;  
9           otherwise, if surplus memory is available in the heap in addition to  
10    memory allocated to tasks,  
11                   reserving an additional amount of memory to the task from  
12                   the heap, and  
13                   allocating memory for the new object from the additional  
14                   amount of memory, whereby allocating memory for the new object  
15                   from the additional amount of memory delays garbage collection.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein if surplus memory is not available  
2     in the heap in addition to memory allocated to tasks, the method further comprises  
3           performing garbage collection on memory to reclaim unused reserved  
4     memory, and  
5           allocating memory for the new object from reclaimed surplus memory.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein reserving the guaranteed amount  
2     of memory from the heap includes:  
3           determining if there is sufficient memory available in the heap; and

4 if not, performing garbage collection to reclaim allocated surplus memory,  
5 and  
6 reserving memory for the task from reclaimed memory.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein memory in the heap is managed  
2 using a generational garbage collector.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein a plurality of tasks share an old  
2 generation of the generational garbage collector.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein each task of the plurality of tasks  
2 has a new generation of the generational garbage collector belonging to the task.

1 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the generational garbage collector  
2 is a copying garbage collector.

1 8. A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that  
2 when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for  
3 managing surplus memory in a multitasking system, the method comprising:  
4 reserving a guaranteed amount of memory for a task from a heap in the  
5 multitasking system;  
6 receiving a request from the task to allocate memory for a new object; and  
7 if memory is available in the guaranteed amount of memory for the task,  
8 allocating memory for the new object from the guaranteed  
9 amount of memory;  
10 otherwise, if surplus memory is available in the heap in addition to  
11 memory allocated to tasks,

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12                   reserving an additional amount of memory to the task from  
13                   the heap, and  
14                   allocating memory for the new object from the additional  
15                   amount of memory, whereby allocating memory for the new object  
16                   from the additional amount of memory delays garbage collection.

1           9.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein if  
2     surplus memory is not available in the heap in addition to memory allocated to  
3     tasks, the method further comprises:

4           performing garbage collection on memory to reclaim unused reserved  
5     memory, and  
6           allocating memory for the new object from reclaimed surplus memory.

1           10.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein  
2     reserving the guaranteed amount of memory from the heap includes:  
3           determining if there is sufficient memory available in the heap; and  
4           if not, performing garbage collection to reclaim allocated surplus memory,  
5     and  
6           reserving memory for the task from reclaimed memory.

1           11.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein  
2     memory in the heap is managed using a generational garbage collector.

1           12.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein a  
2     plurality of tasks share an old generation of the generational garbage collector.

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1           13.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein each  
2 task of the plurality of tasks has a new generation of the generational garbage  
3 collector belonging to the task.

1           14.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the  
2 generational garbage collector is a copying garbage collector.

1           15.    An apparatus that facilitates managing surplus memory in a  
2 multitasking system, comprising:  
3           a reserving mechanism that is configured to reserve a guaranteed amount  
4 of memory for a task from a heap in the multitasking system;  
5           a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive a request from the task  
6 to allocate memory for a new object;  
7           the reserving mechanism that is further configured to reserve an additional  
8 amount of memory to the task from the heap; and  
9           an allocating mechanism that is configured to allocate memory for the new  
10 object from the guaranteed amount of memory.

1           16.    The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
2           a garbage collecting mechanism that is configured to perform a garbage  
3 collection on memory to reclaim unused reserved memory, and  
4           the allocating mechanism that is further configured to allocate memory for  
5 the new object from reclaimed memory

1           17.    The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
2           a determining mechanism that is configured to determine if there is  
3 sufficient memory available in the heap; and

4 a garbage collection mechanism that is configured to perform a garbage  
5 collection to reclaim allocated surplus memory, and  
6 the reserving mechanism that is further configured to reserve memory for  
7 the task from reclaimed memory.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a generational  
2 garbage collector.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein a plurality of tasks share an old  
2 generation of the generational garbage collector.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein each task of the plurality of  
2 tasks has a new generation of the generational garbage collector belonging to the  
3 task.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the generational garbage  
2 collector is a copying garbage collector.